

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3-12, 14-16 and 18-21 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 3-6 and 20 are amended; and claim 1 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained herein. Claims 2-4 and 21 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates that claims 2, 4, 9-12, and 18-21 are allowed. However, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 5-8 are allowed by virtue of their dependency on allowed independent claim 21. With respect to claims 3 and 14-16, these claims are also allowable for the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Surlekar (U.S. Patent No. 5,668,764). Applicant submits that the rejection has been rendered moot because claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 5-8 have been amended to now depend on allowed independent claim 21.

With regard to independent claim 3, the Examiner asserts that the subject matter which Surlekar fails to disclose or suggest is found in the limitation of “a second selection circuit for receiving output signals from the first selection circuit and output signals from a sense amplifier, and for opening an alternative one of transfer paths for the internal signals and output signals and the output signals of the sense amplifier in response to the selection signal”, as found in independent claims 2 and/or 4. Accordingly, as claim 3 has been amended to include some of the allowable subject matter found in allowed independent claims 2 and/or 4, specifically the

feature of "selecting an alternative one of transfer paths of the part of the internal signals and output signals from the integrated circuit device in response to the selection signals", it is submitted that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 14-16 are also allowable by virtue of their dependency to claim 3.

Thus, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 2-4, 9-12, 14-16 and 18-21 are respectfully requested.

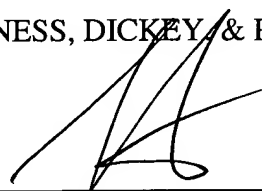
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC:jcp